

# Friends of West Norwood Cemetery



NEWSLETTER NO.16: OCTOBER 1993

## Chairman's Report - Bob Flanagan

As most members will be aware this is my fourth quarterly report since assuming the Chairmanship of FOWNC. Our financial position remains healthy. Our membership continues to grow as described by Rosemary Comber later in this Newsletter and is now larger than that of some other long-established local history/conservation bodies. I think this not only reflects the efforts of your committee, but also the increasing recognition of the architectural and historical importance of the cemetery itself. Our special tours this year have attracted bigger attendances than ever before and most of our other meetings have been well-attended. Our stall always attracts interest at fairs and other events.

Since the formation of FOWNC it has become clear that the research, planning and supervision of tomb restoration and the associated fund raising activities is a major task. Indeed, it has proved beyond the resources of the existing committee to do more than scratch the surface of the few projects initiated. It is a pleasure to report that Paul Graham has agreed to become FOWNC coordinator for tomb conservation/ listing projects and as such will join the committee. Paul will already be known to members for his work on the Authors and Dickens Tours earlier this year. We look forward to Paul's help in this vital work.

One long-serving committee member, Tom Easton, has decided to retire at the AGM. We are grateful for all the help and support Tom has given in the last few years and are pleased to report that he will still be on hand to help with our general tours and with photographic and other tasks. We are pleased to report that an experienced local history researcher and cemetery tour guide, George Young, has agreed to fill this vacancy. As reported earlier this year, George has been reading Boase's Modern English Biography and has added some 300 more names to our list of 'Norwood Notables'!

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the officers, committee members, tour guides, and indeed the members and others associated with FOWNC for helping make 1993 such a successful year. We must all work to maintain this momentum in 1994, a year which will see the National Association of Cemetery Friends meeting at the cemetery in June. We of course hope to have some of our own publications and conservation projects completed by this date.

All our efforts on conservation would, of course, largely come to nothing if Lambeth were allowed to continue their destructive practices within the cemetery itself. We have had no response to our comments on Lambeth's draft Land Management Strategy as discussed in the July Newsletter save for an invitation in the past few days from Lambeth's Chief Planning Officer to a meeting on October 14. Our formal objection to Lambeth's Unitary Development Plan, which is scheduled to be heard in public next year, remains in force to prevent any backsliding on this issue.

However, in July the Chancellor of the Diocese of Southwark issued citation against Mr Mackay, the Cemetery Superintendent, ordering him to appear before the Consistory Court on September 9 to give reason why a Restoration Order covering the monuments removed from consecrated areas of the cemetery should not be made as petitioned by the Archdeacon of Southwark. Lambeth in turn petitioned for a retrospective faculty to cover their unlawful actions in this respect on 27 August. The Court duly sat and took the form of a preliminary hearing at which it was agreed that English Heritage, the Victorian Society and FOWNC would attend and be accorded the right to give evidence at a full hearing on 1 November. Our Vice-Chairman, Nicholas Long, will present our case.

We will suggest that adoption of a management plan for the whole cemetery acceptable to all parties should be a prerequisite for the granting of a faculty. We will also argue that Lambeth should be held to the provisions of the 1955 LCC (General Powers) Act under which they acted to remove monuments. Under this Act they should also have (i) deposited details of all inscriptions on the monuments so removed with the Registrar General and (ii) provided permanent markers on the site of each monument. In addition, we will raise the question of the continued re-use of graves in the consecrated ground without benefit of faculty.

**If anyone has photographic or other evidence of monuments which have been removed, of damage to monuments, or can testify to personal grief (for example, being unable to find a monument to a relative) which may have been caused by Lambeth's operations in the cemetery over the years then please get in touch with Nicholas Long as soon as possible (address and telephone below).**

### **New Grade II Listings**

On 2 August the Department of National Heritage announced that the catacombs associated with the former Episcopal Chapel, which lie beneath the present Rose Garden, and 20 further tombs in the grounds at West Norwood have been accorded Grade II listed status. These include the Maddick mausoleum and the tombs of Sir Horace Jones, Thomas Letts and Baron Paul de Reuter. Full details will be published in the January Newsletter. Thanks to English Heritage for promulgating this list. It is now up to us to suggest any further tombs we feel deserve listed status - I think those of George Davidge, Arthur Anderson, Alexander Muirhead, James Greathead and Gilbert Hastings Macdermott should be proposed for starters!

### **Additional Forthcoming Event**

**Tuesday 16 November: Eric Smith Memorial Lecture - Recent Developments at West Norwood Cemetery - Bob Flanagan.** Clapham Society. Contact Bob or Nicholas Long for details of venue.

### **A Tale of Skill and Courage**

Earlier this year a new FOWNC member, Margaret Ecclestone, the Librarian of the Alpine Club, sent us some fascinating information about two remarkable Victorian lady mountaineers buried at Norwood, the sisters Anna and Ellen Pigeon. They were justifiably famous in their time; between 1869 and 1876 they climbed 66 peaks of over 10,000 ft and 60 passes of over 9,000 ft, the peaks including such well-known names as the Matterhorn, Eiger, Jungfrau and Mont Blanc.

The sisters first rose to fame with an accidental but brilliant feat of mountaineering in August 1869. Leaving their hotel in Zermatt (near the Swiss-Italian border) very early in the morning, they intended to descend a gently-inclined pass called the Lys-Joch. Unfortunately, they found themselves with an uncertain guide and an incompetent porter. Losing their way and making a wrong turning en route to the pass, they arrived instead at a much more difficult pass called the Sesia-Joch. This had only been crossed once before, seven years earlier, by two members of the (all-male) Alpine Club - a passage described at the time as a most daring exploit, a tour de force which might never be repeated (and that had been an ascent, regarded as the less difficult direction). So, the Misses Pigeon found themselves at the top of a very deep rocky precipice above a glacier. After much searching by the guide to find a possible route, they started the arduous and perilous descent, with one of the sisters bringing up the rear of the party and acting as sheet-anchor on the rope, so little did they trust the porter. By the time they set foot upon the glacier, dusk was falling; they finally arrived in the shelter of a shepherd's hut some 18 hours after setting out on their journey, the actual descent having taken about 7 or 8 hours. Apparently the ladies subsequently had some difficulty in convincing the Alpine Club that they had really made the passage!

Ellen (by then Mrs. Abbott) died in July 1902, aged 66, and Anna died in March 1917, aged 84. They were both buried in grave 30190 in square 123, which is at the front of the Cemetery, close to the Superintendent's office. This area has been extensively cleared, of course, and Margaret has been unsuccessful in her search for a gravestone.

## FOWNC Events - October-December 1993

General tours are held on the first Sunday of each month (3 October, 7 November and 5 December). The October tour starts at 14.30 and the winter tours start at 11.00, all at the Cemetery main gate (off Norwood Road), and they last for about 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge but donations of £1 (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation in the Cemetery are welcome.

Talks are held on Saturdays in the Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way, West Norwood, SE27, and start at 14.30. Chatsworth Way leads off Norwood Road, but the entrance to the meeting room is at the side of the Church in Idmiston Road. Again, there is no formal charge but we welcome donations of £1 (£0.50 concessions) to help cover costs.

**Saturday 16 October: Talk - David Roberts' Egypt and the Holy Land, 1838-1839: Then and Now - Peter Clayton**

David Roberts RA is the most distinguished artist buried at Norwood and his drawings of Egypt and the Holy Land are arguably his best known works. The lithographer associated with these projects, Louis Haghe, also lies at Norwood. Peter Clayton is a well-known lecturer and is an acknowledged expert on the life and work of David Roberts.

The FOWNC 1993 AGM will be held after this talk - see below.

**Saturday 20 November: Talk - A Famous Victorian Forger: William Roupell - Judy Harris**

MP for Lambeth, William Roupell was convicted at the Old Bailey in 1862 and sentenced to penal servitude for life. In less than 10 years he had lost about £184,000 and most of the family land in Streatham. He was released after 14 years and returned home to live quietly, ironically becoming treasurer of the Christ Church slate club! He is buried in the family vault at Norwood. Judy Harris has made a special study of the Roupell family.

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## FOWNC Annual General Meeting - Saturday 16 October at 16.00 - Chatsworth Baptist Church

During the meeting, elections will take place for the Officers and Committee for 1993-94. The nominations presently in hand for the 4 Officers and other Committee members are listed below. If you would like to contribute to the work of FOWNC by standing for the Committee, please hand your nomination, including your consent and names of proposer and seconder, to the Secretary, Jill Dudman, at the start of the meeting.

### FOWNC Officers:

#### *Chairman (& Publications Officer):*

Bob Flanagan, 79 Durban Road, London SE27 9RW (Tel: 081 670 3265)

#### *Vice-Chairman:*

Nicholas Long, 58 Crescent Lane, London SW4 9PU (Tel: 071 738 8480)

#### *Secretary:*

Jill Dudman, 119 Broxholm Road, London SE27 0BJ (Tel: 081 670 5456)

#### *Treasurer:*

David Comber, 170 Knights Hill, London SE27 0SR (Tel: 081 761 3996)

### Other Committee members:

#### *Membership Secretary:*

Rosemary Comber - address and telephone as above

#### *Conservation Coordinator:*

Paul Graham, Flat 4, 9 St. Andrew's Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4DT (Tel: 081 390 0182)

Nicholas Reed, Celia Smith, George Young

The audited accounts will be presented to the meeting together with summary reports from the Officers. Nicholas Long will also present an update of the situation vis-à-vis Lambeth and the Consistory Court.

### Membership Secretary's Report -

Rosemary Comber

Our total membership of 241 shows an increase on last year in spite of a small number of 1992 members not renewing. Most Friends are within London or the South-East but a few come from as far afield as Wales, Cumbria and Devon.

Each talk or walk brings a few more members, but as well as subscriptions we do need (if you will forgive the pun) bodies to do things like research, leading walks (training and scripts available) and helping to staff our stalls at meetings and exhibitions. Not arduous tasks when shared, but falling heavily on a few stalwarts at present.

"Be a Friend and bring a friend" might be a good maxim (sorry!)

## TRAILING THE CEMETERY WITH CHILDREN

by Judy Harris

I first discovered West Norwood Cemetery as a teaching resource several years ago. As part of a Local History project, I took a class of 11-year-olds to find the Roupell tomb at the top of the hill. The visit was so successful, only beaten by the trip to Chessington World of Adventure, that I have repeated the Cemetery trail several times with similar success. It is one of a number of places within walking distance of my school, which we visit when looking at our local area.

I soon found that a tomb trek with children of this age is very different from one with adults. The Tombstone Trail supplied by Lambeth may be an excellent introduction to the Cemetery for adults, but children have not heard of most of the notable people; they are much more fascinated by visually interesting headstones and monuments.

Planning for a visit is particularly important. Obviously permission needs to be sought from the Superintendent and the teacher must be familiar with the Cemetery (FOWNC tours can help here!) Equally important, however, is the classroom preparation. A few parents may express some disquiet about the visit and, very occasionally, permission will be withheld, but this has only happened twice in my school. The children can also be apprehensive. Thoughts of ghosts and skeletons may cause a few tremors but the only really worried child, in my experience, was the boy whose religious upbringing engendered rather an over-developed fear of hell and damnation. Comments from both parents and children after each visit have always been complimentary.

I always try to portray the Cemetery as a peaceful, fascinating place, full of history; but also a place where the peace or the grief of others must not be disturbed.

Recently bereaved children may need special attention but I usually find they are reassured by the visit, taking comfort from reading the messages on wreaths and relating this to their experience. Looking at recent burials, the flowers and the messages, seems to fascinate most children; particular interest is shown in the graves of children. On a visit with her class of 9-year-olds, one of my colleagues said a prayer for the deceased child, which was much appreciated.

I always allow the children to roam freely, within a clearly defined area, so they can choose what to look at. Admittedly I have had a few daunting moments. On my first visit, quietly and reverently on the way up the narrow Ship Path to the Wimble



tomb, we passed a disturbed slab, a hole and a scattering of bones. It is no joke being very publicly in charge of twenty-eight running, screaming 11-year-olds. I have since avoided a repeat of this by warning them that they might see the odd dog's (!) bone lying around. Another visit occurred on a grey, rather misty day; not a good idea. Even a frequent visitor, as I am, appreciates the difference a sunny day makes.

On my last visit, we arrived at the same time as a funeral party. I hurriedly ushered my curious class through the group and hoped we would miss the interment. Unfortunately we later met the approaching hearse, the children being scattered across its path. Much to my horror and the children's intense interest, the coffin was that of a very young child. I unsuccessfully tried to arrange the children into a semblance of a respectful parade as they gawped at the coffin and the distraught mother. I don't think she would have even seen us; but perhaps she would have appreciated the sympathetic comments from the children.

We then continued to an area where the children could spread out, sit on the paths, and draw or copy from a variety of headstones. Unfortunately, on this occasion, a woman was tending a recent grave. I don't think she appreciated the child who, trying to be helpful, said "You've got really good words on that stone; would you like me to copy them for my project book?"

So, what do we look at? Obviously the Cemetery is an important resource for any historical project from Victorian times onwards. We look at interesting stones and look for interesting people. We draw the variety of shapes, the angels and cherubs being particular favourites. We copy interesting epitaphs and sentimental verses. We copy biographical details, the Hannen tomb being a good example. The names and details show the ethnic origins of people from all over the world, from 1838 onwards.

My visits start with the grieving water nymph by the pond at the entrance. We marvel at the entrance archway and the impressive view. We look at the variety of memorials inside the gate. Of particular interest is the 9-year-old child's tomb with the robot design and epitaph from the 1970s: "May the force be with you"; already history to the children with me.

The number of handsome mausoleums next catch the eye, particular attention being drawn to the huge Art Deco style mausoleum of Dr. Distin Maddick on the left. We pause at the Maxim stone, while I give a short account of Sir Hiram's inventions. We then look with more interest at the



Gallup memorial with its unfading photograph of Lucy Gallup who died 110 years ago at the age of 35, and its likeness to the statue above. We find the recent teddy-bear stone, then stare at the fine Gilbert monument with its hoarding squirrel. By this time the children have caught the mood and the enthusiasm.

We then take the path to the right and draw the attractive stone in memory of Joe Hunte, opponent of racism. We pass the sad little graves of Chioma and Chinedu. We see gravestones with names from many nationalities, including German, Chinese, Polish and Afro-Caribbean, many with photographs of the deceased, reflecting the long-term cultural diversity of south London.

We explore the path to the Wimble tomb with its carvings of ships. We look at the great monuments: the magnificent Berens tomb, Spurgeon's memorial, Thomas Cubitt's slab and the Tate and Doulton mausoleums. We eagerly explore the marvellous Greek cemetery and wonder at the mosaics, the names and the vast mausoleums.

But we also pause at the well-tended graves of two ex-pupils of the school, both killed in early adulthood in the mid-1980s: one by a terrorist's bomb as he served with the RAF band in Germany, the other by a friend, another ex-pupil, in a knife fight.

We then walk down to the area almost opposite the P. B. Cow stone, where there is room to relax, write and draw before the return to school. This area has a wealth of varying stones, angels and epitaphs to copy; perhaps the favourite being the cherub and verse for Dulcie Amy Siemssen, died 1907, aged 4.

As we leave to return to school, I hope to have instilled in the children an appreciation of the Cemetery as part of their heritage, as a place of peace, of rest and a memorial for the dead.

"Miss, it's really good in there. Can we bring drinks next time?"

\*Judy Harris has many years' experience as a teacher in a local primary school. She is a noted local historian and a founder member of FOWNC. She will be giving a talk about William Roupell on 20th November (see page 3).

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Rosemary Comber, who guided a school party recently, reports an even better closing remark from a child: "Please, Miss, can we go in the gift shop on the way out?"

Review of FOWNC Special Tours -  
July-September 1993

On 10th July, a typical British summer's day (dull and gloomy - we just managed to fit the walk in between spells of rain), Paul Graham led a tour jointly for FOWNC and the Dickens Fellowship. Some 35 people braved the weather to view the tombs (or sites of tombs) of notables connected with Charles Dickens. There was of course some overlap with Paul's previous "Authors" tour, reported in the last Newsletter: we heard again about Douglas Jerrold, who was regarded as one of the three greatest English humorous writers of his time, along with Dickens and Thackeray (they both attended Jerrold's very grand funeral at Norwood); and Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd, to whom Dickens dedicated *The Pickwick Papers*. We also visited the tombs of publishers and newspaper proprietors for whom Dickens wrote, such as Richard Bentley and Sir John Easthope, neither of whom he got on well with, and of the artist George Cattermole, who illustrated some of Dickens' books. One of the most obscure connections was Charles Bravo - Dickens' wife once went for hydropathic treatment at Malvern by the partner of Dr. Gully!

Fortunately, the weather was excellent for the remaining two special tours. On 15th August about 45 people followed Nicholas Reed on his "Artists" tour. It was the first time this tour (originated by Patricia Jenkens) had been held since early 1992, and the attendance demonstrates its continuing popularity. We visited some 20 tombs, including those of the best-known artists at Norwood, David Roberts, Samuel Prout and David Cox Junior. The inclusion of Cox was quite topical, as Dulwich Picture Gallery is featuring three local paintings by this artist in an exhibition which lasts until 21st November 1993. One 'new' tomb visited was that of the sculptor Mario Raggi, who produced the statue of Disraeli in Parliament Square. By the time this tour is held again, hopefully we may see plaques to mark the graves (their tombstones have disappeared) of William Woodington, sculptor of the giant head of Paxton in Crystal Palace Park, and of George Tinworth, who was the most influential sculptor at Royal Doulton when it was still based in Lambeth.

On 19th September a perhaps even larger crowd assembled for the "Scientists and Engineers" tour - so many that we divided into two groups, one led by Bob Flanagan (just landed at Heathrow from the USA a few hours earlier) and the other shared between Jill Dudman (recovering from surgery)

and George Young - the dedication of FOWNC officers knows no bounds! The tombs of such familiar personalities as Sir Hiram Maxim (guns), Sir Henry Bessemer (steel), Dr. William Marsden (hospitals) and P. B. Cow (rubber) were visited again, as was the hydraulic coffin lift in the catacombs. Some newer additions to the tour were Alexander Muirhead, electrical engineer, wireless pioneer and founder of the firm that still bears his name; James Greathead, engineer, whose improved form of tunnelling shield was used to construct the first deep tube underground railway, now part of the Northern Line; and William Simms, optical instrument maker, whose Transit Circle defines the Greenwich Meridian.



Samuel Prout's drawing of Dulwich Mill,  
showing Pond Cottages on the other side of College Road

## Publications News - Bob Flanagan

**Book Review: The Dead Centre of Streatham - St Leonard's Churchyard by John W Brown. Local History Publications, 1990. A5, 18 pages, £1.50 (softback).**

St Leonard's Church dates from medieval times and many thousands of burials took place in the churchyard until it was closed in 1875. The last interment (in an existing grave) was in 1944. There are now 282 identifiable gravestones and this booklet includes a map giving the locations of the tombs discussed. These include: William Dyce (1806-1864), painter - the Dictionary of National Biography credits him with originating Pre-Raphaelite painting with his *Madonna and Child* of 1828; Robert Garrard (-1881), Crown Jeweller - the firm he founded is still in existence; Sir Arthur Helps (1813-1875), clerk to the Privy Council 1860-75; and George Pratt (-1890), draper - the store which bore his name closed only in 1990. There is an error in this latter entry. George Pratt's wife Mary was a governess in the Key household. To cut a long story short, Sir Kingsmill James Key (1864-1932), captain of Surrey County Cricket Club 1894-99, was the second son of Sir Kingsmill Grove Key (1815-1899) and grandson of Sir John Key, 1st baronet (1794-1858), and Lord Mayor 1830-1. Sir John and his son lie in the family vault at Norwood (grave 5,641, square 33). Sir John fell out with William IV over the Reform Bill and was unkindly nicknamed 'Don Key' - I have a print of him in ceremonial robes complete with donkey's head!! Finally, FOWNC member John Brown reports that the builder George Trollope is buried in the churchyard, although this is not mentioned in the booklet. His partner Benjamin Colls (1815-1878) lies at Norwood (grave 5,868, square 39).

**Postcard (30p): Margherita di Prato. Cast bronze medal, 118 mm. Maria Zambaco, 1886. British Museum.**

Maria Zambaco (née Cassavetti) (1843-1914) lies buried in her family vault in the Greek section (grave 1,971, square 28). She is best known for her passionate affair with the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones. She was also his favourite model and as such features in a postcard we stock, *The Beguiling of Merlin* (see January 92 Newsletter). In later life Maria became an accomplished medallist and studied sculpture in Paris under Rodin. She died in Paris just a few weeks before the start of the Great War. Further examples of her work as a medallist are illustrated in *Artistic Circles: The Medal in Britain 1880-1918* by Philip Attwood (British Museum Press, 1992), which is available from the British Museum shop, price £6.50.



**Book Review: Camille Pissarro at Crystal Palace by Nicholas Reed. Second Edition. Lilburne Press, 1993. 56 pages, £5.95 (softback). Many full colour illustrations.**

This revision of our former chairman's popular booklet contains much of local interest and has sold well this summer. Nicholas has included reproductions of Pissarro's *View from Sydenham Hill* of 1871, which features what appears to be a distant view of the cemetery, and of a fine watercolour seeming to date from 1853 painted from a point to the north-east of Robson Road which shows the cemetery wall, Tite's mortuary chapels and an ethereal Crystal Palace on the hill beyond. There are also paragraphs on two notable painters buried at Norwood - Samuel Prout and David Cox junior. Nicholas notes that there is to be an exhibition of Cox's work at the Dulwich College Picture Gallery from September to November this year. As regards the cemetery, my only quibble is the reference to a founder of the department store Derry and Toms being buried at Norwood - 'not proven' to my mind. The wide-ranging nature of the text is further illustrated by reference to the 'Diver who saved Winchester Cathedral'. Nicholas records that Fox Hill, the subject of the famous oil painting in the National Gallery, was named after Fox Farm (now No 1 Palace Grove), the sometime residence of Francis Fox. Nicholas further states that Francis was the son of the engineer Sir Charles Fox (1810-1874) and that he was also knighted for his work in replacing the waterlogged wooden piers beneath Winchester Cathedral with concrete. How much we are to believe of this I do not know. The name of the famous diver was William Walker. He obviously had local connections because he is buried in Crystal Palace Cemetery, Elmers End. Can anyone elaborate?

**Book Review: This Garden of Death - The History of York Cemetery by Hugh Murray. Friends of York Cemetery, 1992. A4, 54 pages, £3.00 (softback). Many monochrome illustrations.**

York may be a long way from Norwood, but the history of York Cemetery has much in common with that of West Norwood. Both cemeteries were opened in 1837, and both were abandoned by their parent companies in 1966. The trials and tribulations of Norwood still continue, but York has survived virtually intact and is now owned by the York Cemetery Trust. They and the Friends of York Cemetery have just completed an outstanding restoration of their cemetery chapel. This book too is outstanding not only for its scholarship, but also for the insight it gives into burial attitudes and practices in Victorian times. I cannot commend it too highly.

**Postcard (30 p): P&O and British India. Robert Opie Collection.**

In 1832 Arthur Anderson (1792-1868) and Brodie McGhie Willcox (1786-1862) jointly founded the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company to operate to Portugal and Spain. 'And Oriental' was added when they began to operate to the eastern Mediterranean, thus giving the initials P&O. Willcox resigned as managing director in 1854. Anderson took charge of P&O until his own death in 1868. The history of the company is too complex to summarise here, encompassing as it does the expansion of British rule in India, the Crimean War, the opening of the Suez Canal, Two World Wars and, latterly, the Falklands War.

Anderson was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Liberal MP for Orkney, 1847-52. He provided a home for the widows of fishermen and a school in Shetland, a further school in P&O's home port of Southampton and, in 1859, founded the Lower Norwood Working Men's Institute, now Norwood College. Anderson's birthplace in Shetland, the Böd (= fisherman's shelter) of Gremista, has been restored as a museum with help from P&O. In later life he lived at Norwood Grove, Gibson's Hill, Streatham, now owned by the London Borough of Croydon. Willcox is buried at Highgate - P&O have paid for the renovation of his tomb. Anderson's monument at Norwood, a tall granite obelisk (grave 9,186, square 41), is in good condition. On my suggestion P&O have recently agreed to take over its maintenance.



**Book Review: Pugin's Builder - The Life and Work of George Myers by Patricia Spencer-Silver. University of Hull Press, 1993. A5, 294 pages, £14.95 (softback). 77 monochrome illustrations.**

This attractively-presented and scholarly work (by yet another FOWNC member!) is a welcome addition to our stock. When reviewing books professionally I normally head straight for the index since, in addition to revealing the scope of the work, this normally indicates how conscientious the author and/or publishers have been. Indexes generated by computer or by professional indexers are normally disastrous as they are compiled with little regard for those who will wish to use the book. I am pleased to report that this book has a detailed, well-structured index! Apart from this comment I can add little to the information already given in the April '93 newsletter other than to record that George Myers is buried in the unconsecrated portion of the cemetery near to the present crematorium (grave 3,114, square 37). Sadly, his tombstone is no more - perhaps we should attempt to get it reinstated.... Others mentioned in the book who are buried at Norwood include Thomas Talbot Bury, John Gregory Crace, Thomas Cubitt, Sir William Cubitt, Sir Thomas Gabriel, Sir John Jackson (Myers' son-in-law), Sir Horace Jones, James Knowles (senior) and Sir William Tite. Members of the Hannen and Grissell families also lie at Norwood. The tomb of Sir William Cubitt is soon to be restored - all the other tombs are still there.

**Postcard (30 p): Keen's Mustard, 1742-1887. Robert Opie Collection.**

Keen & Sons opened the first mustard factory in London at Garlick Hill in 1742. Thomas Keen (1801-1862) was born in Camberwell, but later the family moved to Croydon where they ran a farm at Coulsdon. In 1825 Thomas married Harriett Toulmin, whose family lived at The Elms, 61 High Street. Thomas was a great benefactor. In 1857 the first church in Croydon with free pews, St Andrews, was built on land he gave in Southbridge Meadows. He died on 17 February 1862, his funeral being marked by 'a general closing of the shops during the passage of the procession through the town'. His family grave at Norwood (grave 6,035, square 35), a brick vault with flat York-stone cap, is in good condition. In 1862, the year Thomas died, Keens amalgamated with Robinson & Belville, makers of patented groats (de-husked oats) and barley. In 1903 Keen & Robinson was acquired by another mustard manufacturer, Colmans of Norwich, who still use the brand name 'Keens Mustard' outside the UK. A partner in this firm, Edward Colman (1808-1874), also lies at Norwood (grave 15,015, square 26). The Keen family is immortalised by the phrase 'as Keen as mustard'. Thomas Keen himself is commemorated by Keens Road on his former Southbridge Meadows near to St Andrews church. I thank FOWNC member Herbert Shaw for information on Thomas (see Bull. Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society, No 93, October 1992).

